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No. 33590.

HONG KONG, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1947.

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Soviet Pinched B-29's

New York, Feb. 14. The New York Times said today that "at least three B-29s in operational condition vanished after emergency landings near Vladivostok," before Russia declared war on Japan.

"In at least two instances," the Times said, "Russia fighter planes opened fire on obviously friendly American planes and in one instance Russian anti-aircraft batteries opened up in daylight on a stricken Superfortress."

The Times said the crews were interned with other Army and Navy airmen at Tashkent in south-central Russia in a camp that at one time held 131 Americans.

The Times said the story was written by Sidney Shaleff of its Washington staff, who said that while the war lasted, it was a top-secret matter and even now War and State Department authorities are extremely reluctant to see it in print.

"Possession of the B-29s gave the Russians an excellent working model for the long-range and highly effective strategy of the bombers which they never developed for themselves during the war," Shaleff said.—Associated Press.

KOWLOON "EVACUATION" DEMAND

Nanking, Feb. 14. The Kuomintang-dominated Nanking Municipal Council has issued a manifesto calling on the United States and Russia to withdraw troops from China and "for the restoration of Chinese sovereignty over Dairen, Hong Kong and Port Arthur.

The statement was the first instance of a Government group voicing such demands.

It called for the evacuation of Kowloon and Macao and rejected "all intervention in Chinese internal affairs."

It proposed the formation of a joint assembly to give representation "to all popular organs" and serve as an interim National Assembly.

The Council called for a broadened Government "and separation of the army from politics" and urged the Chinese Communists to surrender their forces.—United Press.

Nagas Have 315 Heads

New Delhi, Feb. 13. Nag tribesmen in Assam, who helped the 14th Army intelligence service in the Burma war against Japan, "collected" 315 heads in head-hunting operations since the end of the Far East war, Mr. Pandit Nehru said here today.

Stern warnings were being sent to the offending villages on both sides of the Assam-Burma border, saying that further head-hunting raids would result in punitive action being taken against the offenders, he added.—Reuter.

British Film Quota Draws Protest

Hollywood, Feb. 14. Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said that further British restrictions against American pictures would injure the British industry as well as Hollywood producers.

Johnston, reporting to 690 top studio executives on his recent trip to England, pointed out that the United States has no tariff on other barrels against importation of foreign films.

"An increased quota in England would breed quotas in other countries," he said. "Every country with a struggling film industry would follow the British example, and instead of England finding an expanding trend overseas for her film, she would meet with increased resistance."

"SAI ON" ENQUIRY OPENS

Evidence On Grilles And Storage

Steps Taken To Prevent Fire

The first step in the probe into the mystery of the fire on the river steamer "Sai On" on the morning of Feb. 4, which gutted the vessel and caused the loss of over 100 lives, was initiated yesterday morning when the Marine Court of Enquiry set up by Government, held its first sitting.

Public interest in the enquiry was evidenced by the large attendance of spectators who filled the small Court room long before the sitting commenced at 10 a.m., but the number fell sharply in the afternoon.

Among those who gave evidence yesterday were the master of the ill-fated vessel, Captain R. Wherry, chief officer William Anderson, the first, second and third engineers, and the Managing Director of the Tung On SS. Co. Ltd., Mr. G. L. Fenlon, owners of the "Sai On."

The Hon. Mr. M. M. Watson was in Court for the owners. The Court comprised the Harbour Master, Mr. J. Jolly, C.E.E., R.D. (President), and Lieut.-Comdr. James Thomas Crews, G.M., R.N., and Mr. Arthur Pittendrigh, master mariner, (members).

After the President had read the warrant constituting the Court, he called a 30-minute adjournment for the members to pay a visit to the "Sai On" to enable them to get better acquainted with the lay-out of the vessel. On their return the Court resumed at 10.35 a.m.

Captain's Evidence

The first witness called was Captain Robert Wherry, who said he had been master of the "Sai On" since Jan. 1, 1946.

Prior to that he had served as master on various ships for five or six years. The "Sai On" was to his knowledge, built in 1924 by the Taikoo Dockyard & Engineering Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong; and apart from the war years had been continuously employed on the river trade.

On her last voyage down from Canton the "Sai On" arrived about noon on Feb. 2. She had passengers and cargo, discharge of which was completed the following afternoon.

As usual he had conducted a routine inspection of the discharge operation.

Loading of cargo on the up-ward trip then commenced, and on being shown a list of the goods loaded on board Capt. Wherry verified it to be correct.

He also confirmed disposition of the cargo on the tween deck as shown on a chart. Among this cargo were three drums of white mineral oil, but he was not sure whether they all contained this oil. These three drums were, however, not touched by the fire. He estimated the quantity to be about 40 gallons.

Loading was completed by about midnight of Feb. 3. The operation was under the supervision of the Chief Officer. Head-hunting raids would result in punitive action being taken against the offenders, he added.—United Press.

Fuel Crisis Takes Turn For Better

London, Feb. 13. The British fuel crisis took a turn for the better today and the Government was expected to decline with thanks President Truman's offer of American coal shipments. Cabinet Ministers and Mr. Attlee's new Joint Commission on the coal emergency probably will discuss Mr. Truman's offer of American assistance tomorrow.

Speculation that Britain would decline the offer was based on these factors:

Seamen's Strike Ends

Portland, Feb. 14. Twenty-one British seamen ended their strike on the freighter Hartington against taking coal to Singapore instead of to Britain.

British Coms. James McDonald said the men agreed to terminate the strike when it was explained the coal crisis in England would be over before the freighter could arrive in the British Isles.

The seamen struck on Tuesday.

Mr. McDonald reiterated coal is needed by Singapore to carry food to Britain.—Associated Press.

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Trading Suspended in Shanghai.

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M.C.C. in Difficulties.

EXPORTED TO HONG KONG

Tokyo, Feb. 14. Occupation officials disclosed that more than 240,000 yards of iron Japanese fabric, stockpiled in the Japanese Government Agency, which is now being liquidated, will be exported to Hong Kong.

The shipment is valued at US\$600,000.

The proceeds will be earmarked for the purchase for Japan of raw wool from Australia, "necessary for the rehabilitation of the Japanese wool industry." — United Press.

Pamphlet Bombs In Cinema

Jerusalem, Feb. 13. Several pamphlet bombs exploded harmlessly last night as 1,000 persons left Jerusalem's Edison Theatre where the Palestine Philharmonic had presented its weekly concert.

The bombs discharged the text of last night's Irgun broadcast, Tel-Aviv's main thoroughfare, Allenby Street, was placed in bounds to British troops in an unexpected move.

Today, soldiers wearing rubber-soled shoes carried out surprise raids on Tel-Aviv's 100 cafes, restaurants, cinemas and other amusement centres, seizing two suspected extremists.

Two teen-aged Irgun pamphleteers were detained when caught plastering walls with terrorist proclamations.

The "canonization" security scheme designed to catch any extremist was enforced in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa.

Meanwhile, another hundred houses were requisitioned by the Army in Jerusalem's Rehavia quarter as the Army prepared to take over the premises of the Jewish National Fund.

Reporters here said that 710 illegal immigrants from Cyprus left that island for Haifa and 330 would come next week, all to be taken in as "quota immigrants." — United Press.

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BRITANNIC IN CIVVY STREET

Liverpool, Feb. 14. The liner "Britannic" reached Liverpool from Bombay last night at the end of her last voyage as a trooper after over seven years military service.

The vessel will be converted into a luxury Canadian White Star Trans-Atlantic liner in the Birkenhead shipyard of Cammell Laird, providing work for more than 1,000 men.—Reuter.

G.B.S. Has A Brain Wave

London, Feb. 14. Bernard Shaw spoke of Britain's fuel crisis to-day and in a letter to the Times offered a Shavian solution—harvesting the tides in Kyle of Tongue at the northern tip of Scotland.

Shaw said he suggested a tidal project to engineers many years ago but they went on grubbing for power in the coal mines, and now that the atomic bomb and Mr. Shinwell's prayers have wakened them up they are dreaming of nuclear power, frighteningly dangerous and enormously expensive. They do not seem to know that our tides, almost unique in the world, exist.

"My suggestions usually take 20 years to attract any attention. By this time an engineering trip to Thurso and Kyle of Tongue is a bit overdue. The climate is delightful, almost sub-tropical, thanks to the Gulf Stream. Not at all Scottish." — United Press.

FOREIGN OFFICE GOES ALL COY

London, Feb. 14. High officials of the Foreign Office today imposed a news ban on further developments in Anglo-Soviet and Anglo-French treaty negotiations. No reason for the ban was given by the spokesman who described it as "an onset of eagerness." It appeared that the blackout may have been imposed in view of the delicate state of relations between London and Moscow—a tension which probably had been heightened by news of the Canadian-American military agreement.

News of the agreement and the emphasis which it places on Arctic defence measures cannot fail to be received with suspicion in Moscow. Its timing may, in the opinion of observers here, result in a setback for the Anglo-Russian negotiations—in which Britain expects the Soviet Union to ask for an all-out military alliance.

News of the Canadian-American pact was received in official silence here. Although the spokesman admitted Britain was informed of the negotiations, he stressed that "we neither were asked for nor tendered any advice or comment."

The ban on news of the Anglo-French negotiations may have been designed to prevent Moscow from gaining the impression that Britain placed more emphasis on this pact than on revision of the Anglo-Soviet treaty. The Yugoslav News Agency correspondent asked for the definition of "eagerness."

"It's a sort of cynicism or reticence," the spokesman said smiling. Observers expected Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin would take up the possibility of revision of the Anglo-Soviet treaty direct with Premier Stalin during the Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Moscow next month.

Stalin, in his recent correspondence with Mr. Bevin, said he felt certain "reservations" in the treaty—originally designed to provide joint British-Russian military action in the event of German military resurgence, must be eliminated. Mr. Bevin subsequently asked Stalin for full information concerning the changes desired by Russia. "No further reply has been reported." — United Press.

CHINA FLIGHTS OFF

New York, Feb. 14. The Trans-Pacific Air Lines at San Francisco announced that the Company had abandoned its plan to operate flights between Oakland, California and China because of failure to obtain the necessary landing rights in China.—Central News.

THE WEATHER

A moderate anticyclone covers China and Mongolia and is extending southward and eastward. A depression moving ENE to the S of Japan is deepening. Pressure is also low over the Sea of Japan and to the S of the China.

Today's Forecast.—Winds N. and NE. moderate offshore; fresh on shore; rather cold.

Yesterday's Weather.—Maximum: 66 deg. Fahr. Minimum: 52 deg. Fahr. Sunshine: 10 hours. Rainfall: 7.76 mm. to against an average of 24.6 mm.

Readings at 10 a.m. 6 p.m.

Baro. at 10 a.m. 1020.2 1016.9 mb.

Rel. Humidity 57 51 %

Dew Point 46 31 deg. F.

Wind Direction N W

Wind Force 6 4 knot.

He said Generals Eisenhower and MacArthur "have advised me further cuts will invite disaster."

The reported half billion cut in non-military funds will result in a corresponding cut in the already dangerously low civil ration in occupied areas. Starvation is inevitable. Any successful defiance of our authority in the occupied areas would quickly mushroom to dangerous proportions with multiplied costs in men and money required to rescue the situation.

Senator Styles Bridges, Republican, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that the army and navy protests indicate "lack of understanding" of congressional intent.

He said that the sub-committee has merely expressed its views

of what can be done and before any specific action is taken the military will be heard fully.—Associated Press.

Antarctic World's Food Frig.?

Little America, Feb. 14. Admiral Byrd envisions the eternally ice-capped wastes of the Antarctic as a great refrigerator in which the world could store bumper crops against lean years, possibly saving future generations from famine.

The head of the United States Navy's South Polar expedition said: "Nations of the world may some day use this great refrigerator. When countries have enough food, they could put surplus supplies here to be used in both local and longrange forecasts."

"The world's supply of food thus would be evened out."

Admiral Byrd pointed out foodstuffs he purchased 20 years ago before his first Antarctic expedition were found perfectly preserved in snow tunnels in his original Little America base.

He said evidence indicated the Antarctic continent once was in tropical climates and predicted: "The time will come when we will find fossils remains here."

Use For At-Bomb

He suggested the atomic bomb could be put to excellent use blowing off the top of the ice cap.

Admiral Byrd asserted he be-

lieved the United States should establish at least eight permanent bases in Antarctica for scientific experiments, including the study of how to conquer polar elements and constant weather observations for both local and longrange forecasts.

In connection with the proposed South Pole base, Admiral Byrd said the temperature would dip to 100 degrees below 0 degrees Fahrenheit, but it could be done.

"We could bury ourselves in shelters under the snow and stay out until the winter there. It would pay off in meteorological, geological and biological observations, which would be taken."

He believed that thousands of persons would volunteer to staff the bases and University scientists

EXCHANGE DEALINGS STOPPED

Inquiry Into Market Collapse

Nanking, Feb. 13.

General Cheng Chia-min, new director of the top secret Bureau of Investigation and Statistics and successor of General Tai Li (killed in an air crash near Nanking last year), has been sent to Shanghai by Chiang Kai-shek to conduct a thorough probe into the sensational runaway market which shot gold to \$960,000 per ounce and U.S. dollars to \$17,000 last week and which boosted commodity prices on the average a hundredfold.

Well-informed quarters said the Government, determined to check the current market confusion, was hamstrung by the influence of powerful financial groups who stand to lose in case the Government cracks down mercilessly on black market operations.

They said these groups, who control and manipulate the market for personal profit regardless of the welfare of the nation, were backed by bureaucratic capital and influence. Government circles also charged that the Communists and other opposition who would like to see a Government economic collapse, are behind some of these groups.

Well-informed sources claimed the current violent fluctuations were mainly the result of manipulation by these groups.

According to the dispatch, Cheng Chia-min, who has at his disposal a well-organized network of investigation agencies throughout the nation, indicated that Chiang considered the situation extremely grave and was determined to crack down on these groups.

Nanking Meeting

Shanghai, Feb. 14.

Summoned by the Government, Mr. Wu Kai-sian, Municipal Social Affairs Commissioner, left here last night for Nanking to attend a meeting convened by the Ministry of Economic Affairs to map out measures to curb the rising commodity prices. Representatives of other Government and industrial organisations were also summoned to the meeting.

The meeting, to be presided over by Economic Affairs Minister Wang Yun-wu, is reported to have as its aim the establishment of a rationing body which will still be substantially represented in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces.

With the agreement of all the British Commonwealth Governments concerned and with the combined concurrence of the United States of America, it has been decided to withdraw from the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces one British infantry brigade and a proportion of supporting administrative troops.

This withdrawal, which has been necessitated by the very extensive demand on British manpower in other parts of the world, has been facilitated by the progress made in their by the progress made in their task by the Allied forces occupying Japan. In spite of this withdrawal, the British Army will still be substantially represented in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces and the United Kingdom naval and air components will remain unaltered.

The meeting, to be presided over by Economic Affairs Minister Wang Yun-wu, is reported to have as its aim the establishment of a rationing body which will still be substantially represented in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces.

According to his plan, Wu said civil servants working either in Government or Municipal organisations, as well as workers of public utilities, productive industries and cultural bodies will be entitled to rations.

The price of the rationed goods will be fixed by a rationing body to be announced after approval by the Municipal Government. Central News.

Another Rally

Shanghai, Feb. 14.

The Chinese nation's sandy inflated currency rallied still further today with the American Dollar fetching CN\$10,000—an improvement of 500 points from yesterday.

Bigtime speculators apparently are inactive waiting to see what measures emerge from the conference in Nanking in which President Chiang Kai-shek and Premier T. V. Soong are participating. Dr. H. H. Kung, former Minister of Finance whose principal post now is the governorship of the Bank of China, wrote to the Emergency Unit under S. I. Clark and special patrols from the Tsimtsusui Police Station.

According to the No. 1 foreman of the Kowloon Godowns, a member of the Wo Shun society, he was reported to be in the territorial rights of the Hop Shing association, and was threatened by some 15 members of the latter guild. He reported the matter to his own society and a vendetta was arranged for after work.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Peninsula Hotel arrivals—S. G. Mualem, J. Berlage, D. A. Herle, G. B. Hamachard and G. M. Plester.

Peninsula Hotel departures—Mrs. M. West, Miss Jessie Short, Miss O. K. Ostrachoff, Liruit, and Mrs. W. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Galloway, Lieut.-Col. S. G. O'Connor, Messrs. R. F. Lynn, S. J. Donahue, Chas. Goldberg, A. Brock, J. S. Harrington, V. Reichel, J. H. Middlecoat, H. E. Harris, A. Dore and Euston Hill.

TRADE HAMPERED

New York, Feb. 14.

American businessmen in San Francisco said trade with China has virtually ceased because of the recent sharp fluctuations in the Chinese currency, according to dispatches from San Francisco.

Harry Radcliffe, Executive Secretary of the National Council of American Importers, reportedly said cancellations by

SINGAPORE RICE THEFTS

Singapore, Feb. 13.

More than 600 tons of rice is stolen every month by "rice pirates" during unloading in Singapore harbour, it was revealed today. The figures, published in the Straits Times, show Singapore loses 10 per cent of the monthly rice ration at an estimated cost of \$15,000. The pirates use engine-powered native craft and pounds on the rice-laden lighters which are manned by a small crew.

The rice is quickly transferred and the pirates make a rapid getaway. Reuter

These prices exclude the man-

MARINE KILLED

Peiping, Feb. 14.

A United States Marine was shot and killed here Thursday night by an unidentified Chinese Marine, Public Relations announced.

Scanty reports received by the Marine Corps said the Marine and two friends were approached by a Chinese who drew a gun and fired.

The Marine died 20 minutes later. A Marine board is investigating. — Associated Press.

Withdrawal Of British Troops

Tokyo, Feb. 14.

The British Fifth Infantry Brigade and a proportionate number of administrative troops will be withdrawn from Japan due to the extensive demand on British manpower in other parts of the world, it was announced here by Major Paul J. Mueller, Chief of Staff at General MacArthur's Headquarters.

An official statement from the headquarters of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces said:

"With the agreement of all the British Commonwealth Governments concerned and with the combined concurrence of the United States of America, it has been decided to withdraw from the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces one British infantry brigade and a proportion of supporting administrative troops.

This withdrawal, which has been necessitated by the very extensive demand on British manpower in other parts of the world, has been facilitated by the progress made in their task by the Allied forces occupying Japan. In spite of this withdrawal, the British Army will still be substantially represented in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces.

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According to his plan, Wu said civil servants working either in Government or Municipal organisations, as well as workers of public utilities, productive industries and cultural bodies will be entitled to rations.

The price of the rationed goods will be fixed by a rationing body to be announced after approval by the Municipal Government. Central News.

POLICE STOP GANG FIGHT

What might have flared up into a serious gang fight between two rival coolie societies in Canton Road yesterday afternoon was averted by the prompt arrival of the Emergency Unit under S. I. Clark and special patrols from the Tsimtsusui Police Station.

According to the No. 1 foreman of the Kowloon Godowns, a member of the Wo Shun society, he was reported to be in the territorial rights of the Hop Shing association, and was threatened by some 15 members of the latter guild. He reported the matter to his own society and a vendetta was arranged for after work.

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TRADE SUSPENDED

Shanghai, Feb. 14.

Small exchange banks, which were the principal dealers in gold and black marketing of United States dollars, this afternoon suspended trading, ostensibly by order of their guild but actually for an unannounced reason which was believed to be investigation by the influential Bureau of Investigation and Statistics (secret police) agents under the command of Li-Gen Cheng Chia-min. He was sent to Shanghai under instructions to report direct to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Movie houses in Shanghai announced that present admission prices would be doubled from Feb. 16. They said the boost was necessitated by the higher expenses occasioned by the incessant hike in commodity prices and the mounting cost of living.

Chinese newspapers generally raised their prices from CN\$400 to CN\$500 a copy.

Hikes in restaurants, since the recent currency landslide showed many instances where prices more than doubled. In one typical foreign style restaurant increases were:

Cup of coffee from CN\$1.50 to CN\$3.50, a plate of soup CN\$5.00, hambeur steak from CN\$4.00 to CN\$10.00, omelet lunch from \$12.00 to \$19.00, cheese sandwich from \$2.00 to \$5.00, rice apple pie from \$1.00 to \$4.00.

The rice is quickly transferred and the pirates make a rapid getaway. Reuter

These prices exclude the man-

Milk Overcharge Was For Sugar

"No respectable restaurant charges for sugar, pepper or salt," said Mr. F. X. d'Almada at Central to Kwok Wah-fun of the Great Eastern Hotel, No. 113 Connaught Road Central, when he gave the excuse that the overcharge of 30 cents on a bottle of fresh milk was for the sugar.

Before fining him \$500, and this was his second offence, Mr. d'Almada advised him that if he wanted to charge extra for the sugar he should put up a notice to that effect.

Mr. d'Almada added that he felt sure in that case not many customers would patronise his restaurant.

Other summons for breach of price control were:

Liu Yau-wai, No. 285 Main Street, for selling a tin of Stincla polish for 70 cents (80 cents)—fined \$15.

Lee Yee of 42 Des Voeux Road Central, a lb of sweets for \$2.50 (\$2.40)—fined \$25.

Leung Chan of 17 Kam Wah

Street, a lb of sweets for \$2.00 (\$1.50)—fined \$40.

Leung Wing-cheung, of 15 Island Road, for selling a tin of Three Castles cigarettes for \$3.00 (\$2.80)—fined \$20.

Light Bulb

Chan Shu, of 236 Queen's Road Central, for selling a sheet of glass for \$1.40 (55 cents)—fined 25¢.

Ng Chi-yeo, 142 Shaukiwan Road, for selling a tin of Stincla polish for 70 cents (80 cents)—fined \$15.

Lat Yat-fan, of 254 Des Voeux Road Central, for selling for \$1.55 (\$1.20)—fined \$50.

Ng Man-san, of 317 Queen's Road West, for selling an electric bulb for \$2.50 (\$1.25)—fined \$25.

Tsung Wah of 39 Queen's Road Central, for selling a cake of Cashmere soap for \$2.00 (85 cents)—fined \$75.

TO DISCUSS ELECTRICITY CHARGES

A frank discussion on electricity charges in Kowloon, the "China Mail" was informed yesterday afternoon by Mr. Robert Der, Chairman of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce, will be held at the premises of the Chamber at 3 p.m. on Monday next.

The "China Mail" was also informed that Mr. F. C. Clerno, a former member of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce, will be present.

The Chinese Light & Power Co. Ltd. has kindly promised to attend the meeting and join in the discussion.

Representatives of all leading Kowloon factories, restaurants and firms will also attend.

MORE OPIUM FOUND

A further four pounds of opium found on ss. "Baron Renfrew" was ordered to be confiscated by Mr. H. G. Sheldon at Central on the application of Mr. Humphreys.

An application by S. I. MacMillin for the confiscation of 12 millilitres of condensed milk found on "Merry Moller" was granted.

S. I. Lau Kam-kwong applied for the confiscation of 100 rolls of cloth found at No. 136 Connaught Road Central, first floor, on Jan. 25. There has been no claimant for the goods. Mr. Sheldon ordered the goods to be kept in police custody for 12 months.

ACCIDENT

When private car 921, driven by Li Kook-fong and proceeding in the direction of Shahnshui, was near the intersection of Nathan Road and Argyle Street at about 11.20 a.m. on Thursday morning when 17-year-old Kwan Wu, formerly of 38 Gage Street, third floor, succumbed to his injuries.

The two Chinese males who were reported dead were identified in the presence of S. I. Dow, who, incidentally, with S. I. Oliver, were the first two Police officers on the scene and who escorted the injured to the hospital, as Lam Kau, 30, of 169 Temple Street, and Chu Kau, 23, of 548 Shanghai Street, second floor.

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Readers' Letters

Sir—I am a member of the local and have received no increment as hoped, and, apart from the increased cost of rice etc., I am about to have my H.C.L. and Rehab allowances cut as from this month; it makes me desperate to think that my salary will be further taxed in the near future.

I am not ashamed to say the fact that I am wearing rags as under-clothing, and soon, will be, without any.

As an alternative to the salary tax, would it be more appropriate to tax (in duty stamps) all receipts over \$5.1% on their face values, minimum tax 10cts, e.g. a receipt of \$5 will bear a 10cts stamp, and a receipt of \$5.00 a \$5 stamp.

This form of taxation is used in one of our neighbour Colonies.

BONZO

Sir—Concerning the imposition of Income Tax I think it is unjust to oppose it in principle as the system has been tried and found out to be most equitable and enforceable in most civilised countries. The question of evasion is not a good one. Even Al Capone was con-

victed for evading the payment of Income Tax when the authorities could not catch him for murdering and other grave offences. No Hongkongite would be so able as the American gangster in beating the law.

As your leader points out the real cause for uneasiness is the alleged scale which will eventually hit the middle class and low-paid persons. Hong Kong dollar's purchasing power has in fact lost eighty per cent of its pre-war value. The scale should at least be varied accordingly.

Perhaps the most equitable revenue would be a tax, any ninety-nine per cent of the sale value of the land and houses purchased in the occupied days. While in Macao and China such purchases were confiscated and buyers punished, Hong Kong has them continue to be the up-starts of the society. It is the most disgraceful act of omission of the Government. It fosters further dishonesty and treachery. I would suggest that with the imposition of Income Tax the Government gets busy with requisition, confiscation and heavy taxation of occupation land deals.

SIU CHUNG FEL

Three armed men held up a Chinese named Ho Chun in San Lau Street near Gillies Avenue yesterday afternoon and robbed him of \$1,000 cash and a gold watch valued at \$100.

CONSTABLE FOUND IN HARBOUR

The body of an Indian, with seven stab wounds in his back and one between his eyes, was recovered from the harbour of the north wall of the Royal Naval Dockyard at about 8.40 a.m. on Thursday.

The body was later identified as that of a Royal Naval Dockyard constable, No. 266 Mohd Khan, who was last known to have been seen at 6.30 a.m. on the same morning on board a landing craft lying off the east wall of the Dockyard.

Evidence was also given that prisoners at the Eastern Gendarmerie at Happy Valley were left in the open with cold water doused over them in winter and that detainees on minor charges were herded together in a pit without a roof to protect them from the weather.

The first witness called yesterday, Lau Wing, a former policeman at Happy Valley at the first post-war meeting

GENDARME CHIEF WAS "MISUNDERSTOOD" MAN

Officer Sentenced For Bigamy

London, Feb. 14. — Although letters were read seeking leniency for him from the two women involved, a London company director and former R.A.F. officer was, at Cambridge Assizes, sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for bigamy.

He is Wilson Boyd Rowat, aged 32, of Natal-road, Streatham, S.W. He pleaded guilty to bigamously marrying Miss Edith Eleanor McLevy, of St. Neots, Hunts, on Sept. 4.

His legal wife wrote that she had refused to give evidence against him, and sent him good wishes. The woman he had bigamously married, in a letter from a nursing home, revealed she had given birth to twins only a week before the trial. She pleaded not to be separated from him.

Mr. A. G. de Montague, prosecuting, said Rowat was married on Oct. 7, 1936, and there were no children. On his return to England after overseas service with the R.A.F. he went through a form of marriage with Miss McLevy.

Mr. Paul Tyrie, defending, submitted that no real harm had been done to either of the women.

Rowat's marriage had been unhappy from the start, and his wife had left him to live with another man. She started divorce proceedings against him in 1944, about a month before the bigamous wedding reception.

Nevertheless, she wished him well, said Mr. Tyrie, who read a letter she had sent to her husband from an address in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. This stated: "I have refused to give evidence against you. I had to sign a statement for the police, but I only put the truth regarding our marriage, the time we lived together, etc. There is no doubt now that we must sort the thing out so that you can get

"Good wishes to you and a sincere hope that all will go well with you in your coming ordeal."

Miss McLevy's relationship with Rowat was extremely happy, went on Mr. Tyrie, and she would undoubtedly have been present in court had she not given birth to twins a few days before.

"Cannot Bear Separation"

She also had sent a letter, which stated:

"I have been very happy with Mr. Rowat, who has always treated me with great kindness, and I want only to be allowed to continue to live with him and to marry him if it should become possible later on. I cannot bear the thought of being separated from him and hope the judge will not separate us and leave me with the responsibility of my three babies."

Passing sentence, Mr. Justice Hallett said he was of opinion it was not one of the worst cases of bigamy. Having got the woman into trouble Rowat went through a ceremony of marriage to satisfy her. This was constantly happening today.

"JANE"



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



On Their Way

Woman Influenced By Novel

London, Feb. 14. — A woman who, it was pleaded, had been influenced by reading a novelette, was bound over at Peterborough Quarter Sessions after pleading guilty to blackmail.

The Yugoslav delegate replied that "certain people" did not want to hear all his statements. Ettridge declared the action of the Yugoslav delegate Josip Djere, in speaking for 45 minutes and then waiting several hours before speaking another 45 minutes was "bordering on the frivolous."

Djere said a throat ailment prevented him from speaking for longer periods but that he wanted also to make sure that the commission had sufficient time to read all documents submitted.—Associated Press.

HELENA MAY REUNION

A reunion tea party was held by members of the Helena May Institute at the Institute yesterday.

Among those present were Lady Young (President of the Council), Mrs. H. Bullock, Mrs. M. A. Campbell, Mrs. M. A. Lo, Mrs. M. Cassidy, Mrs. M. Everett, Mrs. K. B. Fleming, Mrs. E. Rowell, Mrs. M. M. Annett, Mrs. I. Sykes, Mrs. M. Gunderson, Mrs. L. Dunbar and Mrs. A. Wee.

Most of those who attended brought a book as a contribution towards the library, destroyed during the occupation.

The judge said that black-

Employee Sues For Back Wages

Before Mr. Justice T. J. Gould at the Supreme Court yesterday, Lo Chiu, printer, of No. 49, Connaught Road, Central, instituted legal proceedings against his former employer, Chan Shiu-man, manager and partner of the Kinson Printing Press, No. 7, Si Hong Lane, for back wages and allowances amounting to \$399.50, plus cost of the action. Neither party was legally represented.

Manchester, Feb. 14. — "Love at first sight" over a bun and a cup of tea in a NAAFI canteen was held as a prisoner on suspicion of espionage activities.

Sergt. Major Hayashi said that Inouye Kano was working as an interpreter at the Special Branch of Gendarmerie Headquarters. He could not read Japanese and was a bad interpreter. Inouye was never assigned for night duty.

Hayashi said that Inouye, who kept a girl, was seduced by him because he stole money and articles.

While at Stanley, Inouye had threatened him. Hayashi denied that he had ever regarding Goh.

Informers

Major Hiro said that Noma carried out inspections of the Kowloon Gendarmerie.

During his period of duty, the Gendarmerie had been attacked on five or six occasions by "Communist guerrillas" and suffered casualties.

On Dec. 8, 1944, he was engaged in the construction of fortifications at Tsimshau. There was an air raid that day, which was the anniversary of the outbreak of war, with the result that he was not able to return to his office until late in the evening.

He said he had been engaged as an informer.

During his weekly meetings, Noma knew what was going on among his subordinates.

Very Strict

The next witness, Major Shizawa, said that Noma was very strict in carrying out the orders of his superior, the Governor General. He was very keen concerning the maintenance of peace and order. He was also strict towards his subordinates and insisted that orders issued by him be carried out to the letter.

He was misunderstood by some of his subordinates and therefore considered to be a cold-hearted person.

The number of blankets issued to prisoners depended on the state of the weather. In summer, they received one blanket each, but in winter, four.

Prisoners were taken out for a sun bath when the weather was warm, and on these occasions, blankets were also given an airing.

Rations were issued according to the scale laid down by the Governor General. Whenever there was anything left over from the meals of the Gendarmerie staff, it was made available to the prisoners as extra food.

"Be Kind" Order

Noma gave instructions to his subordinates to carry out interrogations as promptly as possible to avoid the possibility of people being detained longer than necessary. He also instructed them to be kind and careful towards prisoners.

Shizawa said that he never at any time received verbal or written orders from Noma to execute Goh and others who escaped from the Gendarmerie and were later recaptured. Noma never gave written orders to any member of the Gendarmerie staff.

Inouye Kano was an interpreter at Gendarmerie Headquarters.

He did not act as interpreter when the escapees were recaptured.

There were many wild dogs in Hong Kong and on representations made by the representatives of the Chinese Co-operative Council, action was taken to eliminate them. There were no police dogs in Hong Kong, and the released atteek nine years' service.

Shizawa said that Ramphal

mailers, whether first offenders or not, very rarely escaped being sent to prison.

Mrs. Cuttoo, it was stated

admitted having sent a letter demanding £20 to a married woman living apart from her husband.

She wrote: "I know you don't want me—or your husband to know of your second daughter."

The recipient complained to the police and on their instructions a letter containing £25 was sent to Spalding post office.

Mrs. Cuttoo was stopped just after she had collected the letter, and after questioning made a full admission.

Mr. Fitzwalters Butler, defending, said Mrs. Cuttoo had felt a certain amount of indignation that a man referred to in the letter was a relative, and she had hoped to cause the woman in the association a certain amount of annoyance and anxiety.

Before writing the offending

letter she had been reading "Love's Hidden Fire," in which the heroine had tried to regain

affection by threats, and that had put the idea into her head.

The judge said the accused

had tried to rob a woman

not only of money, but of

something infinitely more

precious, her peace of mind.

I have been requested by all

Shipping Lines operating in

the Far East Freight Con-

ference to warn Consignees

that notice to the Shipping Com-

panies concerned in respect of

irregularities such as pilferage

and loss is not reported in many

cases until days and even weeks

have elapsed.

"It is imperative that im-

mediate notice be given in

respect of any such irregulari-

ties in order that investigations

can be made with the least

possible delay." It is pointed

out further that failure to re-

port immediately might affect

claims against Steamship Com-

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J. D. ALEXANDER

Local Chairman

Far Eastern Freight Conference.

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HARBOUR DEPARTMENT

It is hereby notified that sealed Tenders, in triplicate, for the purchase of the following unserviceable craft will be received at the office of the Chairman of the Tender Board, Public Works Department, until Noon on Friday, 7th March, 1947. The tender should be clearly marked "Tender for the purchase of unserviceable craft"

The craft are to be sold as they lie and may be seen on application to the Superintendent of Engineering, Government Slipway, Yaumati.

Panel, Fuses and Switches

The abovementioned articles will be open for inspection at their respective godowns on 15th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and on 17th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Inspection Permits will be issued by the Undersigned at their Auction Rooms.

The Auction is subject to the Conditions of Sale published in the Hong Kong (British Military Administration) Gazette, Volume 2, No. 12, of 9th March, 1946.

J. J. FERGUSON, Principal.

Hong Kong, 12th Feb., 1947.

NOTICE

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HOUSING HARSHSHIP

Mr. Justice Williams' decision in the Aplin Street tenancy appeal may be good law, but if it is the law, then the law should be changed. Nothing, surely, strikes so sharply across the general principles of English Justice than a direction that what is fair and reasonable is of no consequence as long as legal conditions attached to a litigant's "I want" are fulfilled. In this particular case, the owner of the premises sought eviction of the tenant on the ground that they were required for the accommodation of "a son or daughter over 18." The Tenancy Tribunal found that refusal of the application would impose no hardship on the applicant, with the obvious implication of the very reverse effect upon the tenant and his sub-tenants. Mr. Justice Williams ruled that the Tribunal was wrong in taking relative hardship into consideration, and that the owner's mere demand for vacant possession, as long as the evidence satisfied the conditions of Article 5, para 1 (A) (1) of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation, was imperative, leaving the Tribunal with no option but to make the order for eviction. "However unreasonable it may be . . . if the tenant is dangerously ill and the removal might cause death, the Tribunal must grant the eviction order." To achieve this somewhat astonishing finding, Mr. Justice Williams insists that the operative word in the Proclamation which decrees that the Tribunal "may" make the order must be interpreted as "shall." It matters not, of course, whether the worthy Justice Judge is right or wrong. There is an offence against common logic and good sense. Mr. Justice Williams did, in fact, go so far out of his way to emphasise the extremes to which literal interpretation of the Proclamation could be carried that his primary purpose may well have been to point the urgent need for remedy. The history of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation, and of the subsequent amendment which gave the Tenancy Tribunal power to evict a tenant in favour of a landlord claiming possession for himself or members of his family, suggest perhaps that the Appeal Court adhered too closely to the letter and overlooked the spirit of the law. The amendment was specifically recommended, and approved, on the ground that the rigidity of the original Proclamation imposed undue hardship on landlords requiring their premises for their own use. It seems a natural corollary that the introduction of a hardship clause of this nature should entitle Tribunal or Court to examine the relative degrees of hardship as between landlord and tenant as a factor to be taken into consideration. Any other view would seem to ignore among other things the paramount purpose of the Proclamation as a whole, which is the protection of the interests of the lawful tenant, in defiance of the common law, unless the landlord can show good cause for the overriding of this main principle. The finding of Mr. Justice Williams rejects this interpretation and in a fashion that brooks no argument, save perhaps "recourse to a higher court." That being the case, it is to be hoped that the Law Officers engaged in drafting the Ordinance which is to replace the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation shortly, will take the opportunity of employing phraseology to cover an Aplin Street situation in a manner denying possibility of doubt or misunderstanding.

NAZI BOSS IN U.S. HOSPITAL

Frankfurt, Feb. 13. It was announced officially to-night that Kuno Schmidt, 50, ex-Sturmannsführer of the Leader's School for German security police under Heinrich Himmler, had been arrested after he was found working for the Americans in the 317th Station Hospital in Wiesbaden. Schmidt, one-time police colonel in the German Army, was also holding the job of Custodian of Property in the Wiesbaden German Demobilization Tribunal. —United Press.

"The Light Went Out While I Was Shaving"

By PHILIP AULT

London, Feb. 13. The light went out while I was shaving this morning. Shaving—well you can do that by feel.

But fellow-correspondent Fahs' wife now—she has a two-month old baby and nothing but electric heating. The baby's warmed milk is in the thermos.

Bruce Munn has a little coal now. He did not have any last week. The horses had flu, the man said.

These weren't Britain's little people. These were American journalists looked upon by the British as privileged because they live in "luxury" flats—some even have central heating—and paid anything from U.S.\$150 a month up for them.

Sometimes it is funny—sometimes it is grim. But always it is a crisis and never is it comfortable.

Munn looks like a miner crawling into a coal bin to scrape the floor for enough to get the fireplace going. His misus' bakes wet logs in a gas oven and tries to mould coal dust into burnable bricks. Mrs Higginbotham buttoned

up her dressing gown trying to get warm before a gas fire whose pressure is so low there is only a flame—no heat.

These folk still were eating. There was food yet—but cooking was the problem. If gas is strong enough your wife is lucky. Otherwise she manages her cooking to skirt the five hours there isn't any current. Many reverted to the habits of their ancestors and did morning toasts speared on a fork over a gas fire or in the fireplace.

How many thousands dead?

Nobody has died except some like the six R.A.F. men who crashed their plane trying to get food to a snowbound village.

Few were likely to die as a direct result of the cold. But this was not broken, beaten Germany. This was London. This was Britain—one of the countries that won the war—the one that can take it. —United Press.

Robert Musel was the luckiest of all—he went home to the United States.

Teletype operator Credon still could not get his house above 50 degrees in the front room. Operator Winch was in trouble with the school authorities. They said they would take action if his youngster did not get to school on time. But Mrs. Winch said it took her three quarters of an hour to heat the water for the child's morning porridge.

Geoff Lamb—he lives down the street from Hig—sent home the girls in his plastic plant. They couldn't use their hands for the cold.

Railways Helpful

A guard at the suburban station gave up.

"The next train?" he said. "It's just the next one that comes along. Don't know where it's going."

RANGOON BANK STRIKE

Rangoon, Feb. 13. Strikers carrying Anti-Fascist "Peoples' Freedom" League flags today picketed Rangoon banks at about 2,000 bank clerks joined strike-bound labourers and commercial firms' employees, estimated at 40,000.

Early this afternoon all banks in the city shut their doors, displaying a notice that the day had been declared a bank holiday.

The Burma Police Union is holding a conference tomorrow to decide its policy towards the strike.—Reuter.

CARNIVAL



"And now to tidy up a bit, if you don't mind!"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

UNSAFE SUITS UNWISE

West led the club K, which the spade 6 ruffed. A diamond drove at the A, and the club Q forced South's second trump. Now South covered the spade A and K and the diamond Q, then laid down the spade Q in the hope that trumps were evenly divided. They were not. The probable division of four and two existed. So East still had a trump left. The diamond J drove it out, but East's trump led a third club round. West could take three more tricks in that suit. That made a total of five tricks for the defence and set the contract two.

At 6-Diamonds, with a lead of the club K, South would have been in a lather. In fact, his contract would have been "ice cold."

Having bid diamonds first, then shown power with his cue-bid of club, North should have counted the diamonds as at least five and the spades as only four.

Tomorrow's Problem

Having bid diamonds first, then shown power with his cue-bid of club, North should have counted the diamonds as at least five and the spades as only four.

H.K.'s Ex-Gunners Getting Together

There is a stirring amongst Roman Pro-Consul Martien ex-Gunners in Hong Kong to form an association. In none of the services is there a greater sense of fraternity than among those who have served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Those who have once been in the service of the gun retain a transcendent feeling of attachment, loyalty and affection for their regiment which neither time nor dispersal can abate and which amidst the preoccupation of peace impel an urge to gather together and keep the flame burning.

There is something in very close and intimate association of the little family of the batteries of previous wars, including it is hoped, some still stalwart veterans of the '40s War.

The motto of the Regiment is "Ubique quo fas et gloria dicunt" — whereverver right and glory lead. The same ubiquitous sense of association and duty might be maintained in peace as in war, and all, both officers and men, who have at any time served but are not now serving in the Royal Regiment of Artillery are being cordially invited to assemble at the Volunteer Headquarters on Tuesday February 25th at 5.45 p.m. to talk over the possibilities of keeping alive in Hong Kong the freemasonry of the guns.

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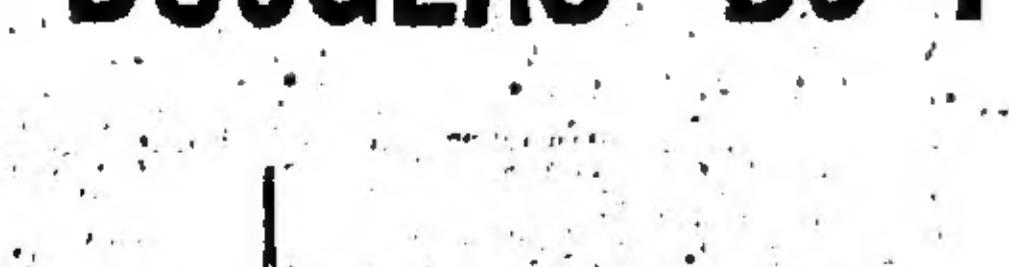
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Clashes In Punjab

Lahore, Feb. 13.

Spears, hatchets, staves and tear gas were among the weapons used today in clashes in Punjab between the police and Moslem League members agitating against the Punjab Government Public Safety Ordinance forbidding processions.

At Sargodha, 160 miles northwest of Lahore, horsemen armed with spears and hatchets, who were leading a Moslem procession which tried to break a police cordon, were scattered by police using staves.

Tear gas was used to disperse a crowd in front of the police station at Amritsar, several persons being injured and two arrested.

In Lahore itself 80 Moslem League procession leaders were arrested.—Reuter.

Writing The Peace

Writing the peace terms for Germany promises to be a tough job for the delegates who will gather in Moscow next month, but it could be tougher. Behind various plans and ideas already being put forward is the motive which is fairly common to powers which will do most of the treaty.

Observers of the Russian scene note this:

Soviet Russians never had the gadgets and the clothes and the good living they wanted, partly because their whole effort was diverted into building a production machine which worked itself ragged for the war. The Russians still want most of an inadequate industrial setup during the war needs this stuff as badly or worse than anyone else.

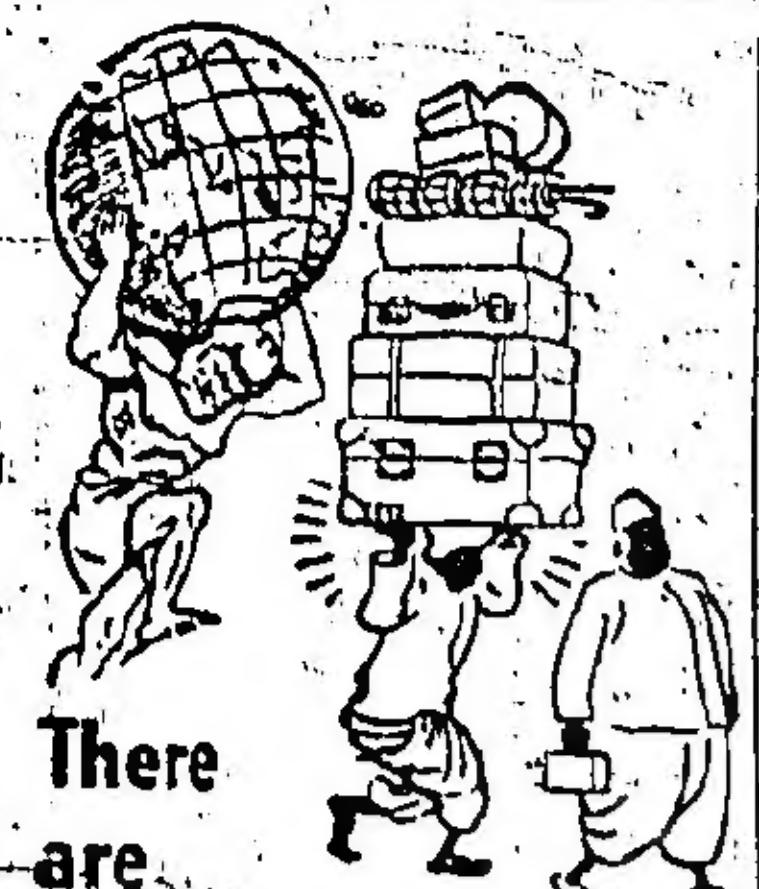
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Another diversion is mutual suspicion by most powers that any inclination to go easy on Germany means that some one is trying to save her to be used against someone else later on. Russia suspects this of the west and the west returns the compliment.

So it would seem that basically no great power has much interest that Russia is seeing German production get started again. For Germany to resume this production she must know where she is going to stand and so must others.

To assume both are right in



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ATTLEE REPORTS TO COMMONS

Cause For Anxiety In Gas Industry

Nine Days' Coal In Hand

London, Feb. 12.
The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, told the House of Commons today that Britain's supply of fuel for power had improved slightly, but warned that there was cause for anxiety now in the gas industry.

The Prime Minister, making an up-to-the-minute report on the fuel crisis that had stopped all but the most essential of the nation's industries, said 78,000 tons of coal were saved between Monday and Wednesday as a result of the drastic current cuts.

He said the general power stocks of coal at the nation's generating plants were now sufficient for about nine days of normal operations. In London, however, there was only about a week's stock at six main power stations.

At the worst, the coal stocks earlier had dropped to four days' supply.

"The situation remains critical," Mr. Attlee said. "The coal stocks of gas undertakings give cause for anxiety, particularly in London where stocks in general for about nine and a half days' consumption—considerably lower in some cases."

Mr. Attlee announced that 12 ships carrying 24,000 tons of coal had reached London in the past 24 hours and between noon on Tuesday and noon today 31 ships in all had left northeast ports carrying 400,000 tons for London.

Thirty more ships carrying 25,000 tons left northeastern ports for other destinations in that same period. Mr. Attlee said. Six ships were tied up, but more than 31 others were expected to move today.

More Coal Moved

The Premier reported that the railways of Britain moved more coal as a result of the passenger service cuts announced last night.

And he sombrely read to the House the weather forecast of continued cold weather—but no gale and no fog.

"This means," he said, "that although the loading of wagons and ships still is slow and difficult, we can keep seaborne coal moving."

He advised the Commons that the "danger spots are the northeast and Midlands areas."

His warning followed an earlier announcement by the British Gas Council that its 1,100 gas-producing members had been put in readiness to impose an emergency plan to cut off supplies to all but essential industries. Home consumers would not be affected under the plan.

"Improvement"

It also followed a statement by the Fuel and Power Minister, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, reporting "for the first time a small improvement in the general position."

The critical drop in coal stocks for the moment has been arrested, but the position remains dangerous until those stocks are brought up to the safety level."

Mr. Shinwell's statement, which was released at a press conference, said.

He also said the drop in power generation at the nine am. cut-off this morning was "slightly less than yesterday's."—United Press.

Gen. Clark insisted that some views which Austria might express in future might be unobjectionable to the United States but "objectionable elsewhere," adding, "My remarks of Tuesday about freedom of expression and democracy are still applicable."

In opposing Gusev's insistence on the treaty prohibition of pan-Germanic propaganda in Austria, Gen. Clark said the United States cherished freedom of the press and of speech, but such was not the case in Russia.

Gusev angrily retorted that freedom of speech had nothing to do with what was under discussion and that they were talking about Austria and not what was done in the United States or Russia.

Gen. Clark replied: "Freedom of expression has a lot to do with it."

The upshot of the argument was that the matter was referred by the deputies to the Council of Foreign Ministers to decide whether Austria should be expressly forbidden pan-Germanic propaganda in any form."

Anschluss

Britain, the United States and France suggested prohibition of propaganda for an anschluss with Germany.

The deputies did agree in principle to prohibit a political or economical anschluss with Germany and that Austria should be made fully aware of such a possibility.

Gusev insisted that Austria be bound to maintain all laws passed.

The workers—an estimated 6,000,000 are idle and un-employed—is expected to reach 6,000,000 by the end of the week.

Those not covered by the union-protected contract begin queuing for the dole" (Government unemployment insurance of 24 shillings weekly for a man, 10 shillings for his wife, and correspondingly less for children.)

The housewife—this ration-riden segment of the population now, has her cooking schedule upset. If she uses gas, that is threatened too, the Sunday "joint" may never get fully cooked. Many houses, already short of coal for heating, now have their electric heaters turned off five hours a day. And with lights out during the dark days there is little comfort left in the home.—Reuter.

The shopkeeper—he is working

BOOGIE-WOOGIE OUT

London, Feb. 13.
The "Daily Telegraph" reports from Belgrade that the "boogie-woogie" Compagnie Big Apple and trucking had been banned in Zagreb.

The official gazette in Zagreb said that engaging in or teaching these American dances was punishable by a fine of US \$30 or 45 days' imprisonment.—United Press.

Accused Protest Innocence

London, Feb. 13.
Protecting their innocence Thomas John Ley, a 66-year-old Company director and former New South Wales Minister of Justice, and Lawrence John Smith, (38) a London joiner, were at a West London police court today committed for trial charged with the murder of John MacBain Mudie, 35-year-old Regate Hotel barman whose body was found in a Surrey chalk-pit last November.

Newspapers—they have reverted to war-time size until further notice—to conserve electricity and newsprint supplies which are scarce because of transport difficulties. Periodicals are suspended.

Sports and other entertainment—greyhound-racing is banned. Many soccer matches are off because of cancelled trains. Steeple-chasing is irregular because of cold weather and transport difficulties. Cinemas closed until 1600 GMT.

Both pleaded not guilty and reserved their defence after the defence submission that no case had been established against Ley, had been rejected by the court.

Doctor Eric Gardner, the pathologist who examined Mudie's body in the trench in the chalk-pit, identified pieces of rope which were found on the body.

Some had been used for trussing, he said, and one piece, which was in a noose round the neck, had caused death by asphyxia.—Reuter.

CLARK VERSUS GUSEV: SECOND ROUND

London, Feb. 13.
General Mark Clark (United States) today again challenged the Soviet deputy, M. Gusev, on the principles of freedom of the press and democracy as the Foreign Ministers' deputies resumed discussions on the Austrian treaty.

Gen. Clark insisted that some views which Austria might express in future might be unobjectionable to the United States but "objectionable elsewhere," adding, "My remarks of Tuesday about freedom of expression and democracy are still applicable."

In opposing Gusev's insistence on the treaty prohibition of pan-Germanic propaganda in Austria, Gen. Clark said the United States cherished freedom of the press and of speech, but such was not the case in Russia.

Gusev angrily retorted that freedom of speech had nothing to do with what was under discussion and that they were talking about Austria and not what was done in the United States or Russia.

Gen. Clark replied: "Freedom of expression has a lot to do with it."

The upshot of the argument was that the matter was referred by the deputies to the Council of Foreign Ministers to decide whether Austria should be expressly forbidden pan-Germanic propaganda in any form."

Anschluss

Britain, the United States and France suggested prohibition of propaganda for an anschluss with Germany.

The deputies did agree in principle to prohibit a political or economical anschluss with Germany and that Austria should be made fully aware of such a possibility.

Gusev insisted that Austria be bound to maintain all laws passed.

The workers—an estimated 6,000,000 are idle and un-employed—is expected to reach 6,000,000 by the end of the week.

Those not covered by the union-protected contract begin queuing for the dole" (Government unemployment insurance of 24 shillings weekly for a man, 10 shillings for his wife, and correspondingly less for children.)

The housewife—this ration-riden segment of the population now, has her cooking schedule upset. If she uses gas, that is threatened too, the Sunday "joint" may never get fully cooked. Many houses, already short of coal for heating, now have their electric heaters turned off five hours a day. And with lights out during the dark days there is little comfort left in the home.—Reuter.

The shopkeeper—he is working

Bernhard Won't Be Scooped

The Hague, Feb. 13.

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands has decided to elaborate arrangements to scoop the world with pictures of the new Royal baby, expected to be born at Soestdijk Palace any day.

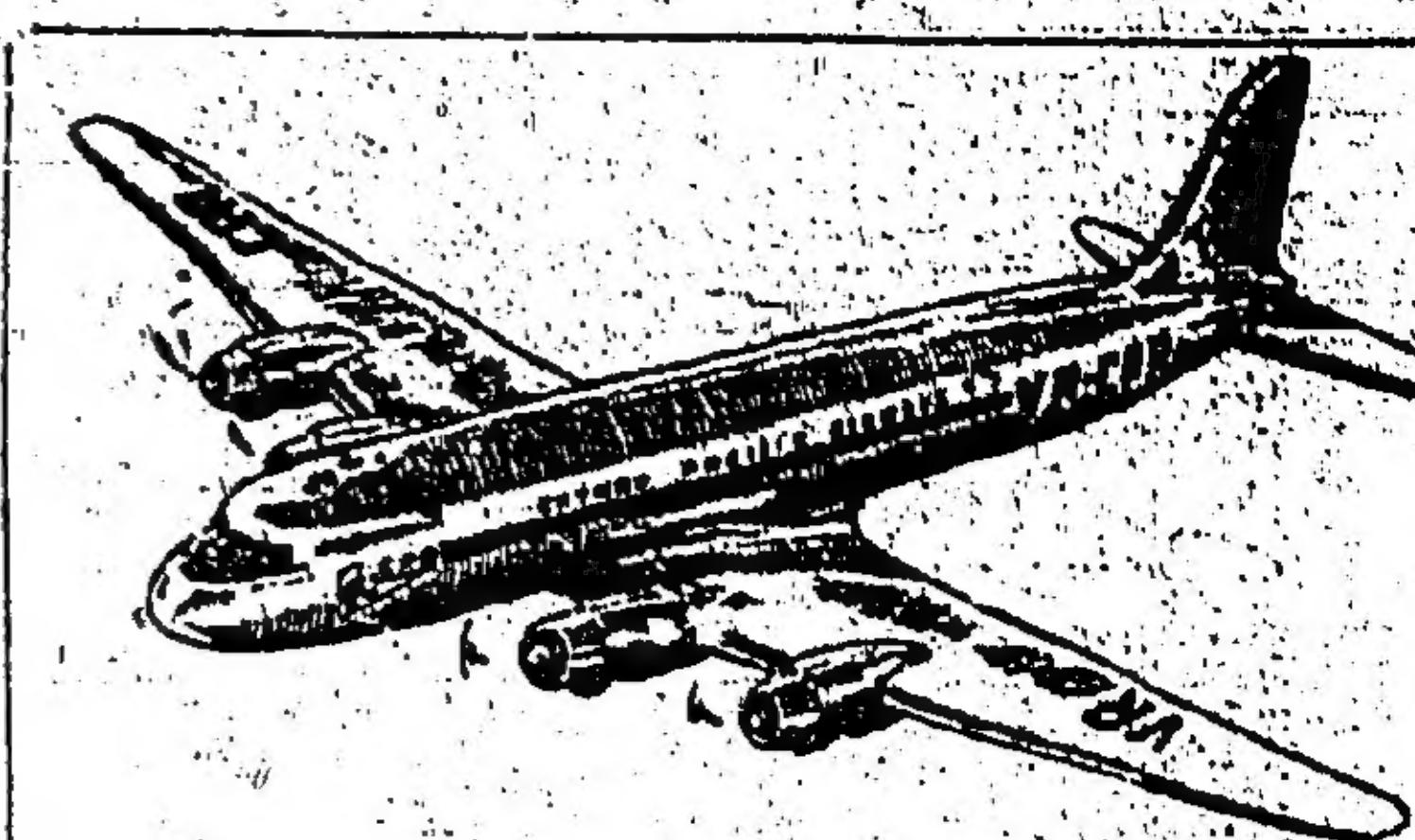
He is anxious to avoid what

happened at the time of the birth of Princess Beatrix, his first child, when some British newspapers, overriding the Dutch press, were able to publish photographs first.

The Prince will take the photographs himself.

The negatives will then be taken under heavy escort to the Court Photographer. A detective will guard the dark room while they are being developed.

Prints will then be taken by the police to Amsterdam where they will be issued to the foreign press under a 24-hour embargo. This will mean that no pictures will appear until 36 hours after the birth.—Reuter.



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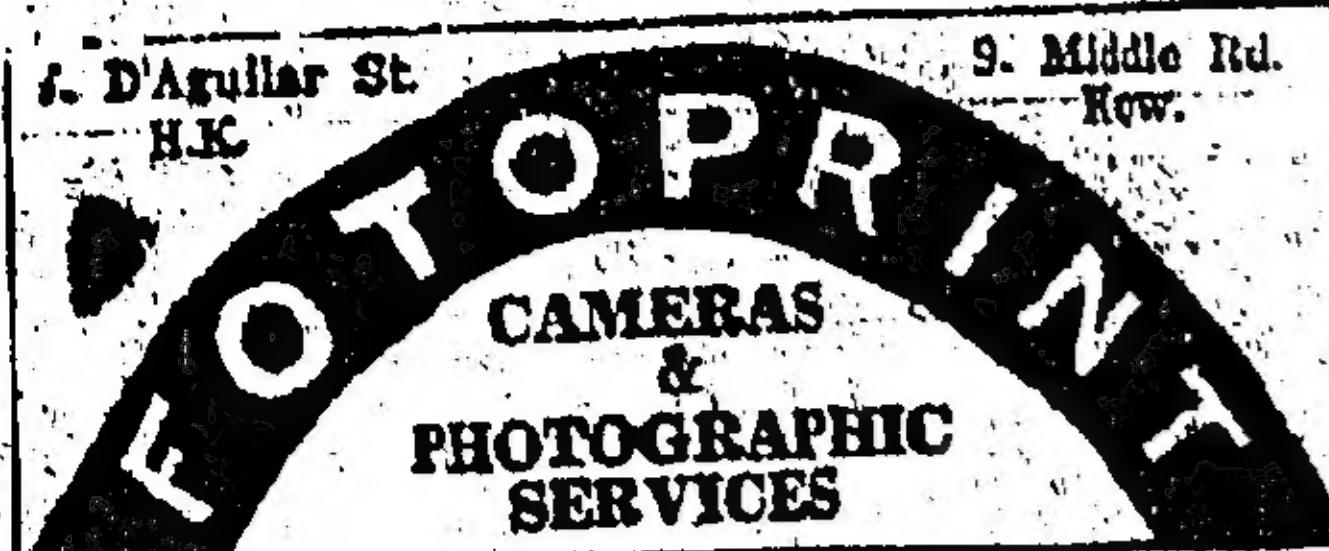
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M.C.C.'s Poor Showing In Victoria Match

Melbourne, Feb. 14.

Denis Compton took honours in an otherwise disappointing display of batting by the M.C.C. here today on the opening day of the four-day return match against Victoria when the tourists lost five wickets for 266 runs. Compton was only seven runs short of his fifth successive first class century when he was dismissed by Keith Miller who held a hot return. Compton's 93 was made in two hours 38 minutes and included five fours.

Victoria, easily Australia's strongest State—they won the Sheffield Shield—held no less than seven players who had taken part in the Test series this season. On the other hand the M.C.C. lacked the services of Walter Hammond, Len Hutton and Bill Edrich. Throughout the day runs came slowly against accurate bowling and well placed fielders.

In the first match against Victoria early last November the M.C.C. won by 24 runs.

Test Tactics And Don Bradman

Adelaide, Feb. 13.

Don Bradman, in a letter to the newspaper "Advertiser," says to certain people have written to newspapers regarding the tactics adopted in the fourth Test, suggesting that he explain the aspects.

"To do so naturally involves the tactics of our opponents which, to say the least, would be most discourteous at this juncture. As a member of the Australian team I am forbidden during the season by the Board of Control regulations to make any public comment on the play and players in first-class matches. If this fact was widely known it would save a lot of argument and also explain why a lot of things written about the play and players go unanswered by the participants," Bradman writes. —Reuter

Science Shorts

Glass for aircraft capable of stopping a half-inch cannon shell has been developed in England. It is made of seven layers of white plate glass and is 2½ inches thick.

The Soviet Arctic Institute sent its icebreaker "Sverny Pojus" to 74 degrees North latitude, a new record, in 1946. The site is north of Novaya Bisk.

The Buffs were a game team but were up against an unusually strong set of opponents and would have done better were it not for the fact that they were opposed by two Senior players, four Internationals and three Juniors.

The Buffs did score, however, in the fact that they were the first Service team in years to accept an invitation to a match and the Club hopes that further matches can be arranged against Thursday's opponents and other teams.

A return match against The Buffs is near certainty and a more balanced set of opponents is assured.

The Kowloon Chess Club lined up with Lt. H. M. Whitcombe, D. E. de Carvalho, S. Novikov, R. C. Gardner, E. Tausz, J. P. de Carvalho, J. Hamer, A. E. Gomes and R. C. Tavares who were opposed by Lt. Thomas (Captain of the team), Lt. Evans, Pte. Murchison, Lt. Bishop, Sgt. Gurd, Cpl. Pill, Sgt. Palmer, Cpl. Waterman and Cpl. Knowles.

A famous British scientist says the present atomic bombs are 600 times more powerful than those of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

"SAI ON" ENQUIRY OPENS

(Continued from Page 1)

of the 'tween deck. Private

cooking was not allowed.

The Chief Officer, the Chief Engineer and the Second Engineer were all certified men. At the time of the fire all the crew were on board.

Heard No Alarm

The first intimation Capt. Wherry had of anything amiss was at 4.50 a.m. when his boy rushed into his cabin and called "Master, big fire on ship; you come quick." Previous to that he had heard no alarm; and as far as he knew no member of the crew nor any one of the passengers had seen the fire started. He rushed out and ordered the crew to take up the fire hoses, one of which he was in service. The fire extinguishers could not be used as they were too clumsy in handle. The centre of the fire was amidship, and it was spreading rapidly.

By 5.10 a.m. Captain Wherry was on the wharf, the whole ship being aflame, and the heat was so intense that people on the wharf had to flee. The last of the passengers who had managed to do so had left the ship's side; further escape was impossible.

Asked if he was aware that people were trapped in the aft portion of the ship, Captain Wherry said that by the nature of the locality of the fire, possibility of escape was precluded.

Quotated by the Court on steps taken on board to prevent fire and to ensure fire fighting efficiency, Captain Wherry said two members of the compradore staff made an inspection of the vessel nightly to see that everything was in order; and the crew were put through a rough fire drill once in every eight days. They were familiar with the position of the fire hose.

Water service on the wharf was for drinking water; he was not sure who was in control. On the night in question the key was missing.

Asked for his opinion on the desirability of carrying cargo on the 'tween deck where passengers were also accommodated, he said personally the practice was a bad one, especially where inflammable cargo was carried.

The Court then adjourned for the luncheon recess.

When the Court resumed in the afternoon, the first witness was Chief Engineer S.O. Bix who said he was awakened at 4.45 a.m. by shouts of "fire" from outside his cabin. He rushed out in his pyjamas, ran towards the alarm, grabbed a fire extinguisher and went aft. When he got amidship he smashed a fire hose box, had the hose connected to a hydrant, turned on the water, and then smashed a fire hose deck to the lower deck. The Chief Officer then arrived and he handed over to him.

Failing in his attempt to get to another fire hose he took a fire extinguisher and emptied it in trying to get to the main deck. Fire was shooting up from the starboard staircase, and he got burnt. He then tried to get a hose from the port side, but it was too late, and he had to climb down from the boat deck to the wharf.

Nos. 2 and 4 cargo ports were open, he said, and so was the grille of the starboard staircase of the two stairways between the 'tween deck space and the upper deck, which he said were never closed.

The next witness was Mr. G. L. Fenton, managing director of the Tung On S.S. Co., owners of the "Sai On".

Mr. Fenton said the ship was operated by the Company and was insured for HK\$300,000, the policy expiring on March 17, 1947. Neither the Company nor he personally had ever received any threatening letters.

Britain Wants Action In Staff Talks

Lake Success, N.Y. Feb. 13.

Britain this evening urged the United Nations Security Council to take action to stop the de- lay in the Military Staff Committee, which has been discussing the organising of the United Nations armed forces since it was set up a year ago.

Sir Alexander Cadogan urged that the Council should call on the committee to produce a report of its activities not later than April 30.

France supported the proposal, but the Soviet delegate, M. Gromyko, opposed the setting of any time limit.

NEW GEORGES CARPENTIER?

Paris, Feb. 13.

Following his fourth round knockout victory over the Scottish lightweight, Bert Gilroy, two nights ago, in a London ring, French boxing experts were seriously speculating today whether or not Marcel Cerdan, French and European middleweight champion, could emulate Georges Carpentier and flatten any one of Europe's best heavyweights.

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